

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kuali'i  
JoAnn A. Yukimura

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188  
Fax (808) 241-6349  
Email [cokcouncil@Kaua'i.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@Kaua'i.gov)

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

Speech by Councilmember JoAnn A. Yukimura  
Chair, Committee on Housing and Transportation  
at the Grand Opening  
of the Kolopua Affordable Housing Project  
Princeville, Kaua'i, Hawai'i  
August 19, 2015

Today is a day to celebrate!

Today, thanks to the work and support of many, there are 44 more affordable housing units on the North Shore, available to those who work in Princeville and are income-qualified!

Forty-four units is not a lot, especially considering the need, but if you knew what it took to make these units happen, you would understand what an achievement this is. And, as the Mayor said, this is just the beginning.

The units are affordable because by county and federal policy, those who qualify will pay no more than 30% of their household income.

The units are affordable because they are close to work, making household transportation costs much less and commuting to and from work much less stressful.

The units are affordable because careful attention has been given to energy efficiency, making household energy costs affordable—unless you leave the lights on day and night.

This is an example of good county and developer planning—which is really an accomplishment.

Most importantly, the units will be affordable in perpetuity.

When this project was first being planned, the units were going to be affordable for 30 years, which meant that at the end of 30 years the units were going to become market units. This just didn't seem right to me. What were we going to do at the end of 30 years? Evict the income-qualified tenants? Where would they go? How would we find replacement land on the North Shore thirty years hence? And the resources to build another 44 units? All of this, just to keep the status quo!? The

County would never get ahead in its goal to provide affordable housing for a growing population!

So I talked to Makani—and to Kamuela and Gary. And they came up with a brilliant solution. The County gave an additional \$1 million in HOME monies to the project, and Makani agreed to keep the units affordable for 60 years and transfer land title to the county at the end of 60 years. They found a win-win! Most importantly, the County will be able to keep this site as an affordable housing site in perpetuity! We are learning to think ahead for 7 generations.

This is very important because aside from traffic, there is no more important issue than providing affordable housing on Kauaʻi. Our community will not be sustainable nor successful without finding a way to provide affordable housing for its citizens. The impacts of an affordable home reach far beyond physical shelter, though we know from dealing with the homeless, that this alone is hugely important: Additionally, parents don't have to mortgage their lives and work 3-4 jobs between themselves. A child has a place in which to do his or her homework; parents can be part of their children's lives. Clearly, affordable housing enhances a family's quality of life and the mental and physical health of its members.

Providing housing also provides jobs! It's win-win all around.

That's why those who made this project happen are my heroes:

- Makani Maeva and Vitus Corporation
- Housing Director Kamuela Cobb-Adams, Gary Mackler and Kanani Fu and staff
- Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
- The Kauaʻi County Council and former Council Chair Jay Furfaro
- HHFDC—Executive Director Craig Hirai and Paul Kyno who represented Kauaʻi on the HHFDC Board
- Citibank
- City Real Estate Advisors
- Hawaiʻi Architecture, LLP
- Unlimited Construction, the subcontractors and the workers whose sweat and skills built this place
- Shopping Center Developer: Foodland
- EAH, whose management is critical to success

In closing, I challenge Pierre Omidyar and Discovery Land Company to do even better. Kauaʻi's North Shore and Kauaʻi County can become a model of a community in which landowners and developers work with county and community to create a place--a home--not only of stunning beauty but of awesome *aloha*. As Chair of the Housing and Transportation Committee, I stand ready to help.